

# Agitating the Proposition for Their Abolishment.

## THE LAW AS IT STANDS.

### Opinions of Members of the Board of Education.

The question of abolishing the colored schools in the city of New York and throwing the doors of all the public schools wide open to the colored children of the city, which is now agitating the minds of those having charge of educational matters, has caused considerable feeling among the colored population of New York as well as among those white citizens whose old time prejudices are not easily effaced. The question was sprung upon the Board of Education at its last stated meeting, when Commissioner Strand made the sweeping proposition to do away with the colored schools and to mix the children of the two races in the common schools of the city. The proposition, which is now believed to be the result of considerable deliberation on the part of several Commissioners, was at once referred to the Committee on Colored Schools for investigation and report, but pending their action the subject has led to the expression of many views on the part of those particularly affected by the proposed action of the Board of Education. In order to ascertain the opinions entertained by leading officials connected with the public school system a representative of the Herald yesterday called upon several members of the Board and also upon prominent educators, and already given the subject considerable thought notwithstanding the fact that as yet no concerted action had been taken.

**SUPERINTENDENT KIDDLE.**—“The idea is a correct one, in the abstract, at least. It is not right to agree all at once to every part of the proposition, but it is in accordance with law. The State of New York, in addition and subsequent to the federal Civil Rights bill, passed the following law on April 9, 1875:

“An Act to provide for the protection of citizens in their civil and political rights. Section 1.—No citizen of this State shall be denied the equal protection of the laws on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, be excluded from any public establishment, or from any accommodation, advantage, facility or privilege furnished by any person, corporation, company or association, or be discriminated against in any manner by any person, corporation, company or association, by reason of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Section 2.—The violation of any part of the first section of this act shall be deemed to be a misdemeanor, and the offender shall be liable to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, or to imprisonment for not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days, or to both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court or judge before whom the case shall be tried.”

“Under the above provision of the law, Superintendent Kiddle, who is colored, has demanded admission for his child in one of the public schools, but the Court there, as well as in Ohio, decided against the claimant, because wherever separate schools exist, no exclusion can be charged. The Board of Education have indeed a perfect legal right to continue the colored schools, which have existed in this city since 1787, but it nevertheless remains for them a question of domestic policy whether they will continue to maintain them or not. The city would lose quite an amount of property by doing away with them, as the land on which they stand is valuable for other purposes. There is no doubt a widespread prejudice, which we cannot ignore, and I do not believe the Board will go any further than to support the law. Since the above law was passed we have admitted quite a number of colored children to the ordinary schools, and I am sure that the parents and the children themselves would be glad to see them. There are only four colored schools in the city, and they are all in the First Ward. All of that colored population living north of Forty-first street is virtually discriminated against by the present rule, which is a relic of the past.”

**SATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE.**—Our experience with the colored children we have had in the past few years, and we have never yet heard of any adverse feeling on this subject on the part of white children. In fact, the colored children have in many instances treated them with considerable kindness, and in some cases they have even been the cause of the expulsion of white children. There is no doubt a widespread prejudice, which we cannot ignore, and I do not believe the Board will go any further than to support the law. Since the above law was passed we have admitted quite a number of colored children to the ordinary schools, and I am sure that the parents and the children themselves would be glad to see them. There are only four colored schools in the city, and they are all in the First Ward. All of that colored population living north of Forty-first street is virtually discriminated against by the present rule, which is a relic of the past.”

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**THE GILBERT ROAD.**—The finishing strokes on the Gilbert Elevated Railroad will be given to-day and to-morrow, and on Thursday, very probably, the first train of cars for the public will be run. A novel scene was witnessed last night on this road between thirty-third and Forty-third streets and no little excitement was occasioned along the avenue in the neighborhood. In the anxiety to push through as rapidly as possible the few remaining pieces of work at the upper end of the road, the Superintendent Stone put the experiment to the test of allowing the men to go to work with the aid of calcium lights. Two large calcium lights located on the structure, therefore, were used, and the men were allowed to go to work in the evening until half-past ten, during which time some fifteen or twenty men drove the bolts into the structure. The men were from time to time supplied with new lights, and the work was done with a very novel one, and as the men worked with a will the din of the hammers and the sound of the tools was heard in the neighborhood. This afternoon the last experiment was made, and Mr. Stone says he is quite assured that the inauguration of the road for the public will take place on Decoration Day.

**THE HEATED TOWN.**—The Board of Health is taking precautions looking toward the preservation of the city's sanitary condition during the approaching heated season. Colonel Kinnison Clark, secretary to the Board, stated yesterday that there are sixteen inspectors at work making the usual annual inspection of tenement houses in the lower wards and eastern parts of the city. The Board of Health is taking precautions looking toward the preservation of the city's sanitary condition during the approaching heated season. Colonel Kinnison Clark, secretary to the Board, stated yesterday that there are sixteen inspectors at work making the usual annual inspection of tenement houses in the lower wards and eastern parts of the city. The Board of Health is taking precautions looking toward the preservation of the city's sanitary condition during the approaching heated season. Colonel Kinnison Clark, secretary to the Board, stated yesterday that there are sixteen inspectors at work making the usual annual inspection of tenement houses in the lower wards and eastern parts of the city.

**THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS.**—It was not definitely settled up to the hour when Mayor Jay left his office yesterday whether or not two names would be sent to the Board of Aldermen at their regular meeting to-day to succeed Messrs. Erhardt and Wheeler in the Police Commission. The local sentiment, however, which aggregate yesterday at the City Hall daily conference at a late hour yesterday afternoon, is in favor of the names of John W. McQuinn and John W. McQuinn. The local sentiment, however, which aggregate yesterday at the City Hall daily conference at a late hour yesterday afternoon, is in favor of the names of John W. McQuinn and John W. McQuinn.

**THE STEAMSHIP OVERDUE.**—The steamship, Planchon, of the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Company, of which Messrs. A. B. Overbridge & Co. are the New York agents, left New York on the 20th inst., for this port, and is consequently three days overdue. The vessel is reported to have been detained at sea by a heavy gale, and is now expected to arrive at New York on the 28th inst. The captain's name is John J. Ford.

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## UNDER THE WHEELS.

Little Annie Garrison, three years of age, was in the act of crossing Crosby street, opposite No. 78, when a blacker street car wheeled into sight. The driver, Walter Owens, seeing the child almost under the wheels, endeavored to stop the car, pulled up the horse and put down the brakes. Meantime he called out to the child, who seemed to be unable to move, and she was crushed under the wheels. Her right hand was cut off at the wrist, and she otherwise and severely injured about the body. The little child was removed to the Chambers Street Hospital, when death soon put an end to her sufferings. The driver was arrested and locked up.

## WHAT AN AUTOPSY ON THE BODY OF MARY GASSNUP REVEALED.

The Coroner's office was notified by letter yesterday that Mary Gassnup had died on Saturday evening at No. 37 Frankfort street under suspicious circumstances. The notification came from Dr. Mitchell, of No. 25 Frankfort street, who had been attending the deceased for some time. Coroner Wolcott, with Dr. Cunniff, proceeded to hold an autopsy. On their arrival at the premises, on the top floor of a rear house, a sickening sight presented itself. There lay the bloated and decomposed body, which had been permitted to remain in all the original horrors of death, unattended by the care of an undertaker or of sympathetic friends. No ice had been placed on the remains, and, as a consequence, after an expiration of nearly two days they presented a repulsive and unsanitary appearance. The atmosphere of the dingy room was impregnated with the most terrible odor, and it was only after the application of disinfectants that the Coroner and his assistant could proceed with their official examination.

The circumstances attending the death of deceased, as related by her ten-year-old daughter, if true, point to foul play. According to the story of the child, her father, who works along the docks, had given her a ride on a street car, and she had returned home on a street car. She was found dead on Saturday evening. This was the condition of affairs as learned from the little girl, who stated that she had been attending the deceased for some time. Coroner Wolcott, with Dr. Cunniff, proceeded to hold an autopsy. On their arrival at the premises, on the top floor of a rear house, a sickening sight presented itself. There lay the bloated and decomposed body, which had been permitted to remain in all the original horrors of death, unattended by the care of an undertaker or of sympathetic friends. No ice had been placed on the remains, and, as a consequence, after an expiration of nearly two days they presented a repulsive and unsanitary appearance.

The autopsy did not discover any evidence of internal disease, but it did discover that the deceased had been poisoned. The poison was found in the stomach, and it was concluded that the deceased had been poisoned. The poison was found in the stomach, and it was concluded that the deceased had been poisoned. The poison was found in the stomach, and it was concluded that the deceased had been poisoned. The poison was found in the stomach, and it was concluded that the deceased had been poisoned.

## BROOKLYN RAPID TRANSIT.

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